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During 1950, 20 mines have been restored or newly constructed and put into operation. These mines are provided with all the most up-to-date equipment. Construction and assembly work for the first half of 1950 exceeded in volume that of the same period of 1949.

During the first half of 1950, more than 750,000 square meters of living quarters were constructed and put into use and 24 percent more cultural and public buildings were put into use than in the same period of 1949. Mechanization of construction work is being carried out.

The basis for the successes achieved by the coal industry is the socialist competition which has spread extensively through all areas of the country to fulfill obligations assumed by the miners in a letter to Stalin.

Among the engineers and technicians of the coal industry, the ranks of experienced leaders and innovators of production are increasing. More than 150 have received the high rank of Laureates of Stalin Prizes. The historic government decision on the advantages and privileges of miners, adopted in 1947, has raised the work of the miners to an unprecedented height. Personal awards have been bestowed on 50,000 engineers, technicians, and leading workers of the coal industry. Orders and medals of the USSR have been awarded to more than 81,000 miners. One hundred fifty miners have acquired the high title of Hero of Socialist Work. For their services in the restoration of the Donbass mines nearly 40,000 miners have been awarded with the medal, "For Restoration of the Donbass Mines." More than 2 billion rubles have been given in prizes to outstanding miners since 1947, and more than 14,000 miners in the coal industry of the USSR bear the title "Honored Miner."

Living conditions of miners have improved steadily. During the 4 years of the postwar Five-Year Plan nearly 5 million square meters of living quarters have been constructed and put into use. In 1949 alone, more than 11,000 individual homes were built for miners. Mining cities and settlements have 673 palaces of culture and clubs, more than 2,500 Red Corners, and 820 libraries.

Coal miners have met Miner's Day with great successes, but these successes do not entitle them to slacken their efforts. Further progress entails great work. Tremendous work on the part of the miners will be required to increase yearly production to 500 million tons per year during the next three five-year plans, the task set by Stalin. One of the chief factors in carrying out this plan will be an increase in the technical equipment of the coal industry.

The national economy presents greater and greater requirements for high-grade coal. Considerably more coal is being cleaned at present than before the war, but there is still room for improvement. An extensive program of coal-cleaning plant construction must be carried out to assure industry of high-grade fuel.

A new branch of industry is being created -- coal briquetting. The construction of coal-briquetting factories, particularly for lignite, will make it possible to utilize local low-grade varieties of coal extensively in industry.

A considerable increase in the rate and a reduction in the costs of capital construction are most important tasks facing coal miners. Measures must be adopted to make possible the maximum decrease in construction time and the prompt putting into operation of new mines, pits, and coal-cleaning plants. The continuous method of operation must be introduced extensively into construction, and further mechanization of labor-consuming processes must be carried out. Particular attention must be paid to increasing the quality of construction.

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There is no doubt that the workers, engineers, and technicians in the coal industry are honorably fulfilling the tasks set for them and are making their contribution to the building up of Communism in the USSR. -- A. Zasyad'ko, Minister of Coal Industry

MINERS PLEDGE FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS --- Izvestiya, 27 Aug 50

In a letter to Stalin, coal miners have pledged the following:

During 1949 the coal industry fulfilled the plan ahead of schedule. Industry, transportation, and electric power plants received millions of tons of coal above plan. In the fourth quarter 1949 the coal output had reached the level set for 1950 by the postwar Five-Year Plan. The national economy received 12.6 percent more coal in 1949 than in 1948, and labor productivity was 8.7 percent higher.

During the first 7 months of 1950 the coal output of the Ministry of the Coal Industry increased 11.7 percent over the same period of 1949 and the output of coking coal increased 12 percent.

By Miner's Day one million tons of coal above the plan were delivered to the country. The Artemugol', Donbassantratsit, Rostovugol', Tulaugol', and Karagandaugol' combines have already fulfilled obligations assumed for the entire year of 1950 to deliver above-plan coal.

The coal industry's obligations in regard to coking coal output were fulfilled ahead of schedule and 440,000 tons above the plan were delivered by Miner's Day instead of 335,000 tons, the obligation for the entire year.

The Donbass achieved its prewar level of production in the fourth quarter 1949 and at present is supplying the country with many thousand tons more of coal than in prewar 1940.

During 7 months of 1950 labor productivity of miners increased 11 percent, including the Donbass, 10.5 percent, the Kuzbass 14.7 percent, and Karaganda 18.6 percent.

In the first half of 1950, 20 mines and pits, equipped with outstanding technique, have been put into operation. During the first 7 months of the year the volume of construction and assembly work rose 9 percent over the same period of 1949.

By Miner's Day 1950, 1.1 million square meters of living quarters were constructed and put into use. During 1949 and the first 8 months of 1950 the miners of the country's coal basins received 2.8 million square meters of new living quarters. During the first half of 1950, 124 public buildings were constructed and put into use in mining cities and settlements. These included schools, clubs, palaces of culture, nurseries, kindergartens, polyclinics, and hospitals.

Mines in the Donbass which have converted to a cycle system are giving a very fine performance. Mine No 5 of the Nesvetayantratsit Trust raised its average daily coal output 600 tons after converting all mine faces to the cycle system of work and completing one cycle each 24 hours. Labor productivity rose 25 percent. The Mine imeni OGPU of the same trust raised its daily output 530 tons and its labor productivity 18 percent.

Rock loading in sinking shafts has become 65 percent mechanized. The speed of sinking vertical shafts has increased an average of 20 percent. Thousands of miners have fulfilled their Five-Year Plan and are working on the next 5-year quota.

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Miners of the coal industry made the following resolutions for the four remaining months of 1950: They pledged to produce 650,000 tons of coal above plan, including the Donbass 170,000, the Kuzbass 150,000, the Urals 175,000, the Moscow Basin 125,000, Karaganda 70,000, Central Asia 40,000, East Siberia 95,000, Primorskugol' (Combine) 30,000, Sakhalinugol' (Combine) 30,000 tons, and Gruzugol' (Combine) 32,000 tons.

In addition, they pledged to produce 130,000 tons of coking coal above plan, distributed as follows: Donbass 50,000 tons, Kuzbass 40,000 tons, Kizel Basin 15,000 tons, and Karaganda 25,000 tons.

The miners promised to increase labor productivity in the fourth quarter 1950 11 percent over the same period of 1949, to decrease production costs and improve the quality of coal.

They promised further to accelerate the speed of constructing mines, coal pits, and coal-cleaning plants and to speed the exploitation of new production capacities in the coal industry.

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